National Highways in North-Eastern Region

1118. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 731K of National Highway Project covering National Highway Nos. 31, 31-C, 36, 37 and 54 starting from West Bengal at Srirampur and joining Guwahati, Nogaon and Silchar in Assam have been taken up under East-West Corridor of N.H.D.P.;

(b) if so, whether the work has started on this project and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds that have been allotted for the project; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed and made operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. At present contracts of the estimated cost of about Rs. 4160.00 crore are under implementation from West Bengal/Assam border to Silchar section of East-West Corridor.

(d) The entire East-West Corridor is targeted for completion by December, 2008.

Increase in road accidents

1119. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRASNPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road accidents in the country are on the rise during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of drivers given training under Administering Refresher Training to heavy motor vehicle drivers in unorganized sector and setting up of Training Institute of Driving and Research to minimize road accidents in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for these two schemes since their inception, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As